

wings in an effort to tear them off. Time after time while we watched, the moth was dragged from the hold without the desired result, when it was immediately taken up and wedged in some other place. Once it slipped and began to fall, but the quick-footed bird went after it and caught it in its bill. Only a small measure of success was achieved when, alarmed by an increasing number of spectators, the bird suddenly took up its booty and flew off.

A young Magpie would have held the insect down in its foot while pulling it to pieces. The procedure followed by this young Butcher-bird appeared to be in line with the larder-stocking habit inherent in its kind.

—W. H. LOARING, Bickley.

Pallid Cuckoo Report, 1950.—Many voluntary observers have co-operated during 1950 in the survey of first calling dates of the Pallid Cuckoo.* The first date quoted for each locality during 1950 was as follows:—

| | |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| April | July |
| 10—South Perth | 3—West Pongelly |
| 12—Mogumber | 6—Cookernup |
| 16—South Bunbury (?) | 9—Pintharuka |
| 22—Tenindewa (seen only) | 9—Wagerup (Harvey) |
| 23—Bunbury | 10—Harvey |
| 25—Bejoording (?) | 11—Bayswater |
| 26—Wilray (seen only). | 12—Nedlands |
| May | 16—Bunbury (other observer) |
| 13—Thomsons Brook (Donnybrook) | 17—Buckingham (Collie) |
| 15—Malda Vale (seen only) | 18—Dunsborough |
| 25—Mount Kokeby | 22—Redmond |
| 28—South Coogee | 27—Pinjarra |
| June | August |
| 6—Wickepin (seen only) | 4—Shotts (Collie) |
| 17—Malda Vale | 6—East Guildford |
| 24—Donnybrook | |
| 26—Bassendean | |

It will be noticed that several early records are either uncertain, or based on sighting only. The very early dates quoted for South Perth and Mogumber are very interesting—there was an inrush of tropical maritime (*Tm*) air on April 10, and this might perhaps partly explain the early call of the bird, because of the greatly increased humidity brought by this type of air. On the other hand, there was an outstanding inrush of *Tm* air on May 9 and 10, and yet the only call record in that period dates from May 13, at Thomsons Brook near Donnybrook.

It might be desirable to observe all instances of Pallid Cuckoo calls during 1951, and not the first calls only, in order to find out whether any weather situation has any effect on the bird.

—J. GENTILLI, Nedlands.

*The 1949 report appeared in the *W.A. Naturalist*, vol. 2, 1950, p. 59.

Blue-breasted Wrens at Mosman Park.—In the *W.A. Naturalist*, vol. 2, 1950, p. 108, Mr. W. H. Loaring has presented some interesting data on the extending of the recorded range of the Blue-breasted Wren (*Malurus pulcherrimus*). By 1950 its presence had been established from the mouth of the Murchison River to as far south as Scarborough.